

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present

Chairman, Cllr B Webb, Cllr S Bagg, Cllr M Solomon, Cllr K Perry, Cllr J Riddle & Cllr R Western

53) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Councillors & 5 members of the public to the meeting.

54) Apologies for Absence

These were received in respect of Cllr R Harris, Cllr D Lumber, Cllr C Brown, Cllr Ann Bown, County Cllr John Edney, PC Tony Freeman & PCSO Nick Mizon

55) Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

The Chairman, Cllr B Webb, declared an interest in the item on the agenda headed 'To consider options for the Green Wedge'

Cllr J Riddle declared an interest in the agenda item headed 'to Consider a Donation Request from Wembdon Church for Signage to the Church'

56) The Views of Wembdon Residents

Two members of the recently formed Speed Watch group addressed the meeting. They explained that they had formed the team, as they were concerned about speeding motorists in the village. They had identified 3 roads where they believed speeding occurred, Wembdon Hill, Wembdon Rise & Church Road & were, from time to time, undertaking a speed watch. They were reliant on borrowing a speed gun from the police & as one wasn't always available they were asking for funding from the Parish Council to purchase one at the cost of £1,000. Additionally they had some signs, which they wished to place in the village, & wanted guidance from the Council as where best to place them.

The Chairman stated that the Council were also concerned about speeding in the village & they had created a highways sub-committee to address the problem. He added that he would instruct one of the members of the sub-committee, Cllr C Brown, to liaise with the speed watch team & report back to the Council at the October meeting.

Another member of the public addressed the Council regarding concerns he had regarding

- Incidents of poor community policing
- Dog mess in the village
- Facilities for young people
- The new footbridge in to the playing field

The Parish Council was congratulated for several initiatives & also criticised for seemingly ignoring one of its own notices in the playing field.

57) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 13 July 2009 were agreed & signed as a true record of events.

58) Report from PC Tony Freeman

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to PC Freeman regarding the placement of bollards in the village when the Tamlyns sales events take place.

59) Report from the Clerk

The meeting was informed that events were being held over 18 & 19 September covering the proposed transport strategies for Bridgwater, Taunton & Wellington between 2009 & 2026.

The new footbridge had been officially opened with coverage due to appear in the Bridgwater Mercury.

Cllr M Solomon had attended the Quantock Parish Cluster Meeting on 1 September 2009. Items covered included a traffic plan for the A39 & a budget presentation from Sedgemoor District Council.

Cllr Solomon would be representing the Council at the Bridgwater Cluster Meeting on 24 September 2009.

The site for the new notice board had been identified & the notice board had been ordered at a cost, including VAT, of £660.

The Parish Council had taken over responsibility for maintenance of the verge in Church Road in front of Greenacre.

Cllr S Bagg & the Clerk had held a meeting with a representative of the drainage board to consider actions to avoid a repeat of the flooding in May 2008. The proposals included a new spillway & possibly reducing the height of the road surface by the entrance to the playing field.

County Highways had been monitoring the speed of traffic on sections of Wembdon Rise & Wembdon Hill to enable them to determine whether the Parish Council would be able to have access to a Speed Indicator Device.

The external auditor had approved the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009.

All of the fencing around the toddlers play area had been replaced & there had also been other fencing repairs in the playing field.

A quote of £220 + VAT for the replacement of two concrete fencing posts in the playing field was approved.

A quote to replace the perimeter fencing around the playing field with bow top fencing had been obtained. The playing field sub-committee were asked to consider this as a future project.

Cllr R Western was instructed to obtain a spring closer for the gate in to the toddlers play area.

Two quotes for the drainage of the playing field had been received. The one from Baileys had been approved as it was within budget & also because their proposal was the preferred drainage board option.

As a result of the RoSPA inspection signs had been placed on the basketball backboard. Cllr Western was due to attend the Somerset Playing Fields Association AGM on 24 September & he informed the Council that the Wembdon playing field had won an award for the 2nd year running.

Cllr R Harris was making enquiries regarding the options for retaining the allotment field beyond December 2010 when the current tenancy agreement expired.

The Chairman of Somerset County Council, Cllr John Edney, was seeking nominations for the Chairman's Awards for Service to the Community 2009.

The Clerk informed the meeting that one of the dog waste bins in the playing field had been replaced & another one placed at the junction of Wares Lane with Greenacre.

Several Councillors volunteered to remove the rubbish from around the rhymes & elsewhere. It was hoped that there would also be volunteers from the community.

Cllr D Lumber would be representing the Parish Council at the Annual Civic Service on 20 September 2009.

Sedgemoor Schools were seeking new Governors & the Parish Council had been invited to make nominations.

Cllr's Solomon & Brown would be attending the training event on planning matters arranged by S.D.C.

Cllr K Perry would complete the planning services survey being undertaken by S.D.C.

The Clerk had received & was dealing with a Data Protection Act - Subject Access Request.

60) Correspondence

60.1) Parish Charter Consultation

The Council agreed its response to the consultation exercise.

60.2) Replacement of Road Signs

It was agreed that this would be carried forward to the October meeting.

60.3) Other Correspondence

The following was placed in the correspondence folder

- Guidance Booklet on how to deal with Planning Applications
- Clerks & Council Direct magazine - September 2009
- The Clerk magazine – September 2009
- A Local Development Framework newsletter
- The Playing Field magazine
- Thatch magazine
- Community Council for Somerset Review of the year & AGM details
- LARC meeting notes dated 9 June 2009
- Somerset Community Safety newsletter
- Hinkley Point C site investigation works newsletter
- Hinkley Point newsletter + the minutes of the Site Stakeholder Group Meeting dated 26 June 2009

61) Options for the Green Wedge

The Chairman, Cllr B Webb, declared an interest, as his family owned a small part of the wedge & handed over Chairmanship of the meeting to Cllr K Perry.

Cllr M Solomon informed the meeting that the area known as the Green Wedge had been designated as suitable for recreational facilities in the existing Local Plan.

Wembdon Football Club had submitted, to the Parish Council, revised proposals for part of the land owned by J Notaro & as a result of that the Council had created a small steering group comprising of Cllr's Solomon & Bagg, a representative from Wembdon Community Association & one community representative to consider options for the area. The steering group had met twice & were now aiming to expand the group. The expanded group, which would work to a Charter, would then investigate the feasibility of providing additional recreational facilities in Wembdon.

Cllr Solomon informed the meeting that representatives of the Parish Centre were being kept informed & that discussions with landowners & The Community Council for Somerset had commenced. The local community would be kept informed & eventually there would be a public meeting.

62) Planning

Cllr Webb resumed Chairmanship of the meeting.

The appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission in respect of 51/08/00042 – erection of three storey dwelling at 7 Wembdon Orchard had been dismissed. Enforcement Action had commenced in respect of the grass track racing at the fishing lake in Perry Green.

51/09/00006 – 12 Wembdon Hill. Erection of two-storey extension to rear elevation.

Application withdrawn.

51/09/00016 – 12 Wembdon Hill. Erection of single storey rear extension.

No objection from planning sub-committee.

51/09/00007 – 9 Blakes Road. Erection of ground floor extension to existing garage with first floor extension over & new pitched roof to existing front bay window.

Application withdrawn.

51/09/00017 – 9 Blakes Road, Wembdon. Erection of single storey extension to front of garage & hall, first floor side extension above garage & installation of pitched roof to front bay window.

No objection from planning sub-committee.

51/09/00008 – 4 Blakes Road. Erection of side extension to form separate dwelling, single storey rear extension to existing dwelling & formation of two parking bays for each dwelling.

Permission granted.

51/09/00010 – Grabhams Farm, Moores lane, Wembdon. Retention of part converted barn & change of use from Holiday let to private dwelling.

Permission granted.

51/09/00011 – 7 Cridlands Meadow, Wembdon. Erection of rear conservatory.

Permission granted.

51/09/00012 – On land at, Highfield, Sandford Hill, Wembdon. Erection of stables.

Permission granted.

51/09/00013 – Perry Croft Barn, Perry Green. Erection of single storey extension to SW elevation.

Permission granted.

51/09/00014 – 8 Risedale Close, Wembdon. Erection of single storey rear extension & first floor extension to front & rear dormers.

Permission granted.

51/09/00015 – Barn on land to the East of, Moores Lane, Wembdon. Change of use & conversion of barn to dwelling.

No objection from planning sub-committee.

63) Finance

It was RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made to Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau but no donations would not be made to Bridgwater Arts Centre or Wembdon Church in respect of direction signage to the Church.

The following payments were authorised

- Ground maintenance £285.00
- Clerk's expenses £59.87

It was RESOLVED that the Council would consider the application of the County Councillor Grant Fund totalling £1,200 at its October meeting.

Balance at 13 July 2009	£18544.12
VAT Refund	£ 993.15
Somerset Rights of Way	£ 1000.00
Recreational Amenity Grant	<u>£ 468.95</u>
	£21006.22

Less

Ground maintenance x2	£ 570.00	
Goalpost Fixings	£ 431.25	
C.P.R.E Subscription	£ 29.00	
Play Equipment Spare Parts	£ 37.09	
Clerk' Expenses	£ 45.25	
Salary & Income Tax	£ 778.20	
Playing Field Inspection	£ 123.05	
Website Charges	£ 450.00	
Fencing Repairs	£1342.05	
Audit of Accounts	£ 155.25	
Signs for basketball backboard	£ 40.25	
New Bridge	£6580.00	<u>£10581.39</u>
Balance at 16 September 2009	£10424.83	

64) Matters Raised by Councillors

The Chairman reported that he, Cllr Solomon & the Clerk had inspected a number of potholes on the Common & agreed that repairs were required & these repairs would be undertaken.

The poor state of repair to the surface of the footpath, BW 34/2 between Church Path & Booth Way would be reported to Somerset Rights of Way Department.